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BEFORE THE RECEIVED
ARIZONA POWER PLANT AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE

2015 OCT 13 P 2:12

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF SUNZIA TRANSMISSION LLC, IN)
CONFORMANCE WITH THE)
REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA REVISED)
STATUTES 40-360, ET SEQ., FOR A)
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL) DOCKET NO. L-00000YY-15-0318-00171
COMPATIBILITY AUTHORIZING THE) Case No. 171
SUNZIA SOUTHWEST TRANSMISSION)
PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES THE)
CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW 500 KV)
TRANSMISSION LINES AND)
ASSOCIATED FACILITIES ORIGINATING) NOTICE OF FILING TESTIMONY
AT A NEW SUBSTATION (SUNZIA EAST)) SUMMARY OF SCOTT WILBOR ON
IN LINCOLN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO,) BEHALF OF CHRISTINA MCVIE,
AND TERMINATING AT THE PINAL) POTENTIAL PARTY/INTERVENOR
CENTRAL SUBSTATION IN PINAL)
COUNTY, ARIZONA. THE ARIZONA)
PORTION OF THE PROJECT IS LOCATED)
WITHIN GRAHAM, GREENLEE,)
COCHISE, PINAL, AND PIMA COUNTIES.)

TESTIMONY SUMMARY

OF SCOTT WILBOR

ON BEHALF OF POTENTIAL PARTY

CHRISTINA MCVIE

Scott Wilbor resides at 1037 E. Alta Vista St. Tucson, Arizona. Mr. Wilbor is a
conservation biologist. Mr. Wilbor received his B.S. and M.S. in Wildlife Biology from
Colorado State University (1985) and University of Alaska (1996), respectively, and his M.S. in
Natural Resource Studies from the University of Arizona in 2014. Mr. Wilbor's thesis focused
on middle and lower San Pedro River watershed ecological and social values. Mr. Wilbor

Arizona Corporation Commission

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Docket No. L-00000YY-15-0318-00171

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1 conducted an ecosystem conservation assessment and provided a landscape conservation design
2 for the watershed. Prior to returning to graduate school, Mr. Wilbor was employed as a
3 conservation biologist by the Tucson Audubon Society, where Mr. Wilbor initiated the Arizona
4 Important Bird Area Program. Mr. Wilbor has worked in the San Pedro River watershed since
5 2002. Mr. Wilbor is currently employed as Conservation Director by the Cascabel Conservation
6 Association. Mr. Wilbor's expertise regards the San Pedro River watershed's natural resource
7 values, ecosystem processes, agency and non-governmental organization conservation efforts,
8 and community concerns and investment.

9 Mr. Wilbor is testifying on behalf of Christina McVie, a potential Party/Intervenor,
10 regarding potential ecological and environmental impacts of that portion of the proposed route
11 within the San Pedro River watershed. Mr. Wilbor will testify regarding potential adverse
12 impacts to the soils, plants and animals of the effected watershed, including riparian and wetland
13 habitats, which would likely result from the construction, operation and maintenance of the
14 proposed SunZia Transmission Line in Arizona. Mr. Wilbor will specifically address the
15 biological integrity of the watershed; landscape connectivity for wildlife; the threat posed by the
16 potential introduction and spread of invasive species; the decades of conservation efforts of
17 numerous public and private entities to conserve the lower San Pedro River watershed; the
18 existence of mitigation lands (for the Roosevelt Dam, for example) for previous infrastructure
19 construction and habitat loss managed for restoration and conservation of threatened and
20 endangered species, and; the nature of the globally critical resources to be directly, indirectly and
21 cumulatively impacted.

22 Mr. Wilbor will provide information regarding potential impacts to current and future
23 conservation and mitigation measures, and potential impacts to private entities and other
24

1 developments at or in the vicinity of the proposed SunZia Transmission Line, including scenic,
2 historic and archaeological resources.

3 Mr. Wilbor will reference the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) Wildlife
4 Linkages Assessment (2012) of the watershed connecting the Santa Catalina, Rincon and Galiuro
5 Mountain ranges and describe how it relates to his own work (2014) regarding linkages in the
6 watershed that will specifically facilitate adaptation to climate change. Mr. Wilbor will describe
7 the ecosystem services provided by the San Pedro watershed and how they contribute to the local
8 and regional economy, including eco-tourism. Mr. Wilbor will reference the investments made
9 by Pima County in the watershed. Mr. Wilbor will reference some of the exhibits and references
10 provided by Ms. McVie in addition to his thesis, which is lodged as a resource reference for the
11 Department of Interior's Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative and USGS sciencebase
12 <http://www.usbr.gov/dlcc/science/products.html?prodId=55c3dc90e4b033ef52106c95> and
13 <https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/55c3dc90e4b033ef52106c95>. Mr. Wilbor will also
14 reference the docketed letter submitted to the Committee by the Cascabel Conservation
15 Association.

16
17
18 Respectfully submitted,

19 *Christina McVie*

20
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1 ORIGINAL and 25 COPIES of the foregoing hand delivered this 13th day of October 2015 to:

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